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(54) Title: NUCLEIC ACID PROBES AND BROAD-RANGE PRIMERS FROM REGIONS IN TOPOISOMERASE GENES, AND METHODS IN WHICH THEY ARE USED

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to nucleic acid probes and to broadrange primers that are useful in the identification of bacterial species and the diagnosis of bacterial infections. Especially, the invention relates to specific nucleic acid probes that originate from hyper-variable regions situated near the conserved sequences of topoisomerase genes of infection-causing bacteria. The invention also relates to broad-range primers originating from the conserved regions of topoisomerase genes. Especially, the primers originate from conserved regions of the genes encoding the gyrB and/or parE protein. In addition, the invention relates to the use of these nucleic acid probes and broadrange primers in the diagnosis of bacterial infections as well as to diagnostic methods in which these nucleic acid probes and broad-range primers are used.

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